

REMARKS

We note with thanks the Examiner's indication that claims 3-8, 10, 13, 18, 20 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

5 Accordingly, claim 21 has been amended to include the recital of claim 22. Claim 22 has been cancelled.

In respect of claims 1-20 the following submissions are made.

U.S. Patent No. 5,392,596 to Holsapple et al. was 10 cited by the Examiner alleging that claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 12 and 19 were anticipated by this reference.

The independent claims 1 and 11 of the present application recite a combustor mounting assembly having an articulated joint. The Examiner's attention is directed to 15 U.S. patent No. 5,392,596 at column 4, commencing at line 52 wherein the function of the means 180 is stated as applying an axially compressive force between flange 176 and housing 12. This axially compressive force allows for axial thermal expansion of the combustor assembly 32 and 20 allows for varying thermal expansion coefficients between the ceramic components and the metallic components. The combustor of Holsapple et al. must be supported in some manner to resist the axially compressive force exerted by means 180 and to radially support the shell of the 25 combustor. The purpose of the Holsapple et al. device is

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not to locate the combustor or support it but rather to apply an axially compressive force to seal the end of the combustor while allowing the combustor to grow under thermal expansion and contraction. The use of spherical components 182 do not provide a load supporting rotational mounting but are simply an easily manufactured and assembled arrangement to interlock the collar 176 and spring 184. There is no functional necessity to have a spherical surface since for example spring washers or wave springs completely surrounding the combustor outlet equally provides the same function.

Further, it is not taught nor suggested that the combustor of Holsapple et al. can be located and be supported using an articulated joint as claimed in the present claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's objection is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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